



Federal Communications Commission **POCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL**
 Common Carrier Bureau
 Washington, D.C. 20554

September 22, 1999

RECEIVED
 SEP 22 1999
 FCC MAIL ROOM

Mr. Michael Schneider
 8085 Slade Road
 Harborcreek, PA 16421

Dear Mr. Schneider:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the cost of long-distance service. The Commission will consider your comments in its proceeding regarding the pricing of low-volume long-distance service.

In that proceeding, the Commission is assessing the impact of certain charges—such as monthly, minimum long-distance fees; universal service charges; and the presubscribed interexchange carrier charge (PICC)—on customers who make few, or no, interstate long-distance calls. The Commission is doing so as part of its efforts to ensure that all Americans benefit from a robust and competitive communications marketplace. We hope that this inquiry will help us better understand and manage the effect of these charges on consumers.

We will add your correspondence to the official record of this proceeding. It will take approximately two weeks for your correspondence to be added to the Commission's electronic database, but a hard copy will be available in the Commission's public reference room within a week. If you have Internet access, you can view the entire record on our web site at one of the following addresses:

<https://gulfoss.fcc.gov/cgi-bin/ws.exe/prod/ecfs/comsrch.hts>

<http://gulfoss.fcc.gov:8080/cgi-bin/ws.exe/prod/ecfs/comsrch.hts>

Once at one of these locations, enter the Common Carrier docket number, 99-249, in box number 1, labeled "Proceeding." Click on "Retrieve Document List" at the bottom of the page. A list of all the documents in the record will appear. You can click on any of the items to view that document.

Thank you again for your submission.

Sincerely,

Lynne Milne

July 14, 1999

Yog Varma
Federal Communications Commission
Common Carrier Bureau
Room 6202
2025 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Mr. Varma,

I am writing this letter to you concerning A. T. & T.'s new policy of charging \$3.00 a month minimum fee. Enclosed is a copy of the letter from A. T. & T. to me about their new policy changes.

I make very few long distance calls a month. The calls I do make average about \$1.00 to \$1.50 a month. In fact, there have been times I will go two or three consecutive months without making ANY long distance calls at all.

I am outraged at A. T. & T.'s new policy for charging me \$3.00 a month for calls I do not make.

I would appreciate anything you could do to stop A. T. & T. and all other long-distance telephone companies from charging \$3.00 a month to its customers for calls NOT MADE.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Schneider

Michael Schneider
8085 Slade Road
Harborcreek PA 16421

Enclosure

Minimum phone charges probed

WASHINGTON(AP) — The Federal Communications Commission says this week it will look into the minimum monthly charges that some long-distance companies tack onto the bills of consumers who make little or no use of their services.

"We're trying to be the least intrusive in terms of regulation, but at the same time I would like to be able to protect the low-volume users," said Yog Varma, the deputy chief of the FCC's Common Carrier Bureau.

The charge, typically \$3, is tacked on to the phone bills of customers who subscribe to a basic-rate plan but whose long-distance calls total less than \$3 a month. The minimum fee does not affect customers who make more than \$3 in long-distance calls.

Two long-distance companies that impose the fee, AT&T and MCI WorldCom, told The Washington Post that competition forced them to add the charges.

Varma told the Post that the minimum fees are partly the result of the FCC's reform of how long-distance carriers pay the local phone companies for using their networks.

While some consumers have seen their long-distance bills go down, the FCC said a small number of people who make few or no long-distance calls may have been harmed by the changes.



M. Schneider
8085 Slade Road
Harborcreek, PA 16421-1332



RECEIVED
JUL 19 1999
FCC MAIL ROOM

YOG VARMA
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
COMMON CARRIER BUREAU
ROOM 6202
2025 M STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON D.C.

20354